

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 IOE-00 COME-00

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO, PORC

SUBJECT: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PROPOSALS AFFECTING FAO-UNDP  
RELATIONS IN FIELD

REFS: A) ROME 8267; B) ROME 8083, C) STATE 121449

1. SINCE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S QUESTIONS (REF C) TO PUT TO FAO  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA ON THE EFFECT OF HIS PROPOSALS ON FAO-UNDP  
RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FIELD, AND WHILE SENDING DR. SAOUMA'S ORAL  
(REF B) AND SUBSEQUENT WRITTEN RESPONSE (REF A), U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
TO FAO ACQUIRED EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON THIS ISSUE FROM OTHER  
SOURCES. TWO POINTS MAY BE OF INTEREST.

A. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MORSE AND FAO  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA ARE WELL ADVANCED, AND ABOUT TO COME TO A  
HEAD, ON TERMINATING UNDP PAYMENT OF 14-17 FAO SENIOR AGRICULTURAL  
ADVISORS AND COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES WHOSE CONTRACTS EXPIRE IN  
JULY. IN JANUARY, FAO HAD INDICATED IT WAS PREPARED TO PICK UP  
THEIR SALARIES BEGINNING IN JULY, BUT WITHIN JANUARY  
REALIZED IT WOULD NOT BE READY AND ASKED UNDP TO CONTINUE TO PAY  
THEM UNTIL JANUARY 1977. UNDP CONTINUED, HOWEVER, TO SET A  
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JULY 15, 1976 TERMINATION. SAOUMA'S LATEST LETTER FOR DEFERRAL

WAS DATED APRIL 21. MORSE TOLD SAOUMA IN NAIROBI LAST WEEK HE STILL WAS SET ON TERMINATING UNDP PAYMENT JULY 15. MORSE REPORTEDLY WROTE AGAIN TO SAOUMA ON THIS QUESTION ON MAY 17, BUT THE LETTER HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. IF THESE FIELD ADVISORS ARE TO BE CUT OFF UNDP ROLLS IN JULY, NOTIFICATIONS MUST BE SENT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. FAO WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO RETAIN THEM IN THEIR PRESENT POSTS OR FIND OTHER SUITABLE JOBS FOR ALL OF THEM. SOME WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT JOBS, AND SOME COUNTRIES WILL NOT HAVE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORS FOR A TIME.

B. DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE HAS BEEN UNDER WAY FOR TWO DAYS IN THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE WITH SENIOR FAO OFFICIALS. FAO OFFICIALS SAY THEY WENT OVER THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONSENSUS CAREFULLY WITH THE COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH THAT DR. SAOUMA'S PROPOSALS WERE CLEARLY WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CONSENSUS. STRONG SUPPORT APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING IN PROGRAM COMMITTEE IN FAVOR OF DR. SAOUMA'S PROPOSALS ON RELATIONS WITH UNDP, AS WELL AS FOR THIS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM PROPOSALS. THIS SUPPORT COMES MAINLY FROM AGRICULTURAL SECTORS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: DISCUSSION OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FIELD SEEMS TO BE MOVING ALONG BETWEEN UNDP AND FAO, INVOLVING NOW THE FAO PROGRAM COMMITTEE, AND SHORTLY THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE FAO COUNCIL. WE BELIEVE BEST HOPE OF ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION IS TO LEAVE MATTER TO TWO NEW HEADS OF ORGANIZATIONS TO WORK OUT OVER PERIOD OF TIME. VOLPE

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